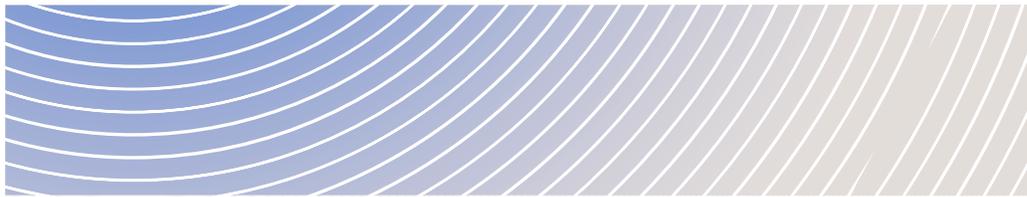


Wasamac Gold Mine Project



DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

January 8, 2021



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Canada



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1. Introduction

On November 26, 2020, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) determined that an impact assessment was required for the Wasamac Gold Mine Project (the Project), pursuant to section 16 of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA).

The draft Public Participation Plan (the Plan) was developed by the Agency taking into account the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to provide opportunities for public participation during the impact assessment process. The Plan is also designed to be flexible, so that the Agency can modify the approaches described therein to take into account the progress of the assessment. This Plan could also be modified as the pandemic evolves. If this is the case, the Agency will inform the public and stakeholders.

For more information on implementing meaningful public participation, please refer to the [Framework: Public Participation Under the *Impact Assessment Act*](#) and the [Guidance: Public Participation under the *Impact Assessment Act*](#). A separate [Overview: Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan](#) is also available. It describes opportunities for Indigenous engagement and related approaches.

2. Project description

Monarch Gold Corporation is proposing the construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment of an underground gold mine. The mine would be located approximately 15 kilometres from downtown Rouyn-Noranda in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region of Quebec. As proposed, the Wasamac Gold Mine project would have a mine life of 11 years and an ore production capacity of 6,053 tonnes per day. The Project would include the operation of an underground mine, the implementation of an ore processing plant and related infrastructure, and the development of underground infrastructure for ore and waste rock transportation as well as waste rock, tailings and overburden accumulation areas. The proponent is considering the possibility for transporting the ore by rail to process it at a plant in Ontario, as an alternative to the construction of a processing plant in Quebec.

3. Objectives of public participation

The Public Participation Plan will be developed following consultations during the Planning phase. This Plan explains how to participate in the impact assessment process and provide input. The Agency has the following public participation objectives:

- Members of the public who wish to participate in the impact assessment have the opportunity to do so in an informed manner, with the necessary information.
- The Agency wishes to put in place conditions conducive to the participation of a range of people, including youth, women, seniors and groups with diverse identity profiles.
- The public participates from the outset. Its participation continues on a regular and frequent basis, at each key stage of the process.
- The public participates in the development of key documents, including the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, the proponent's Impact Statement, the Impact Assessment Report and potential conditions.
- Engagement opportunities and mechanisms, selected according to identified needs and interests, include public comment periods, in-person activities and virtual information sessions at key stages of the process.
- Public views heard throughout the process are documented and inform decision-making.

All comments received to date on the Project can be found on the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#) (the Registry).

3.1 Identifying stakeholders

The Agency has compiled a preliminary list below that includes communities, associations and other stakeholders whose interests may warrant participation in this Project's impact assessment. The Agency has developed this list based on documents provided by the proponent and the recommendations of the Conseil régional en environnement de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue (CREAT). The Agency also included participants who had already submitted comments during the consultation period on the Initial Project Description.

- General public (Canadian citizens);
- Wasamac Citizens' Committee (COC-Wasamac);
- Conseil régional en environnement de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue (CREAT);
- GÉCO - Groupe ÉCOcitoyen;
- Institut de recherche en mines et en environnement de l'Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue;
- Institut de recherche sur les forêts de l'Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue;
- Les amis du Kékéko;
- Organisme de bassin versant du Témiscamingue (OBVT);
- Organisme de bassin versant de l'Abitibi et de la Baie James (OBVAJ);
- Regroupement d'éducation populaire de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue (RÉPAT);
- Regroupement Vigilance Mines de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue (REVIMAT);



- Société de l'eau souterraine de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue (SESAT);
- Société du loisir ornithologique de l'Abitibi et du Témiscamingue; and
- City of Rouyn-Noranda.

A distribution list will be maintained throughout the impact assessment. Individuals and organizations on this list will receive project updates throughout the process. If you would like to be added to this list, please use the "Submit a Comment" function on the Registry's Project page (see link above). Request to be added to the Public Participation Plan distribution list.

A draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan has also been prepared: <http://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/137475?culture=en-CA>. This plan outlines the methods and tools the Agency will use to engage potentially impacted Indigenous peoples.

3.2 Public participation tools

The Agency has identified a series of potential ways to ensure meaningful participation in the impact assessment process:

- Direct telephone line for the Wasamac Gold Mine project to facilitate access to information and receipt of public comments (1-418-254-2435)
- Public comment periods;
- Community meetings, in person or virtual, depending on the status of the COVID-19 health crisis;
- Planned virtual presentations for public participation, including Q&A sessions;
- Public notices;
- Notices on the Registry;
- Social media updates (e.g., the Agency's Twitter feed);
- Email distribution;
- Virtual training on the impact assessment process and how to participate effectively during the process.

Note that this list is not exhaustive. It may be modified based on comments received to provide additional opportunities for meaningful participation and engagement. The Agency would like to hear from you:

- What do you think of the communication tools listed above? Do you have any preferences or suggestions for tools to facilitate your participation?
- Do you, your community or your organization face any challenges, whether economic, technical or linguistic, that could restrict or even prevent your participation in this project? If so, please specify.



4. Public participation activities and approach

The following table presents, for each of the phases in the impact assessment process, the engagement activities led by the Agency and, to the extent possible, the activities planned by the proponent. In the event that the impact assessment is referred to a review panel, the objectives of the Public Participation Plan would be incorporated into the review panel’s mandate. The review panel would then select engagement activities in accordance with its rules of procedure, protecting the review panel from any real or perceived conflict of interest.

Table 1.1 – Table of Public Participation Approaches and Activities

Objectives of the Phase	Expected Activities	Time Frame	Public Participation Tools
Phase 2: Impact Statement (up to three years)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness among the public about the impact assessment process and how to participate in a meaningful way. • Engage the public by giving them the opportunity to participate and comment on the impact statement. • Review the proponent's Impact Statement information and address any outstanding issues or deficiencies raised by the public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency will post the proponent's Impact Statement, the Impact Statement Summary and corresponding schedules on the Registry. The Agency will seek public comment on these documents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultation, which will last approximately 30 days, will begin following the posting on the Registry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online consultation period. • Notices in the Registry, social media, newspapers and on the radio. • In-person and/or virtual community meetings. • Email and phone.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency will ask the proponent to present the impact assessment to stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency will advise the public of the availability of funding to support public participation in the impact assessment process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement of funding availability in April 2021. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency will respond to enquiries received by email or telephone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing, as required. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any updates will be provided by email to stakeholders on the distribution list. 		
Phase 3: Impact Assessment (up to 300 days)			



Objectives of the Phase	Expected Activities	Time Frame	Public Participation Tools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review information on the Agency's draft Impact Assessment Report and Potential Conditions, address outstanding issues or deficiencies raised by the public. Raise awareness among the public about the impact assessment process and how to participate in a meaningful way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Agency will post the draft Impact Assessment Report and Potential Conditions on the Registry. The Agency will seek public comments on these documents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consultation, which will last approximately 30 days, will begin following the posting on the Registry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online consultation period. Notices in the Registry, social media, newspapers and on the radio. Documents available in the consultation centres. In-person and virtual presentations. Email and phone.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Agency will distribute the draft Impact Assessment Report to designated consultation centres (e.g., libraries), the context permitting, so that these documents can be made available to the general public. 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Agency will hold community meetings for the public on the draft Impact Assessment Report and Potential Conditions. The meetings will include question and answer sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings held following the posting of the draft Impact Assessment Report and Potential Conditions. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Agency will ask the proponent to make a presentation focusing on identifying issues, addressing project concerns and explaining mitigation measures. 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Agency administers the Participant Funding Program to support participation in the impact assessment process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement of funding availability in April 2021. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Agency will respond to enquiries received by email or telephone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing, as required. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any updates will be provided by email to stakeholders on the distribution list. 		



Objectives of the Phase	Expected Activities	Time Frame	Public Participation Tools
Phase 4: Decision-making (up to 30 days)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the proponent and the public about the decision of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change or the Governor in Council on the project. • Increase awareness in relation to the decision process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency will post the following on the Registry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ the final Impact Assessment Report; and ◦ the Minister's Decision Statement, including any conditions associated with the project and the rationale for the decision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency will post the Minister's Decision Statement, including any conditions and the rationale for the decision, on the Registry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notices in the Registry, social media, newspapers and on the radio. • Emails.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency will respond to enquiries received by email or telephone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing, as required. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any updates will be provided by email to stakeholders on the distribution list. 		
Phase 5: Post-decision (if the project is approved)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the public about follow-up and monitoring activities and the results of the follow-up program. • Inform participants of possible changes to the Decision Statement and request comments on the proposed changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency will post the results of follow-up and monitoring activities on the Registry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the timeline set out in the Decision Statement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up results posted on the Registry. • Online consultation period, if applicable. • Notices on the Registry, if applicable.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the proponent submits a change to the project and the Agency determines that it would alter the Decision Statement, the Agency will post a notice inviting the public to comment on the proposed change analysis report and potential changes to the Decision Statement. • Where appropriate, the Agency will then post a Notice of decision amending the Decision Statement, along with reasons for the changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If applicable, the consultation would be for 30 days following posting on the Registry. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency will respond to enquiries received by email or telephone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing, as required. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any updates will be provided by email to stakeholders on the distribution list. 			



5. Participant Funding

Funding is available to support public participation. For information on activities eligible for funding or to apply for funding, please refer to the National Program Guidelines:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/public-participation/participant-funding-application-environmental-assessment.html>.

6. Information

The Agency office that will manage the project's impact assessment is as follows:

Wasamac Gold Mine Project

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

Quebec Regional Office

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